

Historically the Census Bureau Protects the Public's Privacy

The Census Bureau's policy on confidentiality dates back 150 years. Here are some examples of how the U.S. Census Bureau has protected the privacy of the public.

1950	The Census Bureau denied the Secret Service's request for information about the people in the neighborhood where they moved President Truman temporarily during White House renovations.
1960	The Census Bureau updated procedures to prevent anyone from accessing confidential information in the new computer age.
1961	Congress strengthened the law so that copies of Census Bureau questionnaires kept in the respondent's possession could not be used as evidence against him/her in a court of law.
1980	FBI agents entered the Census Bureau's Colorado Springs office with a search warrant to seize Census Bureau documents. No confidential information was released because a Census Bureau worker held off the agents until supervisors resolved the issue with the FBI.
1982	Supreme Court denied local officials access to confidential Census Bureau data.
1990	Millions of questionnaires were received from movie stars, politicians, and millionaires. All were processed without any breach of trust.